

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043852

SUBJ: ROMANIAN FINE ARTS EXHIBIT

REF: BUCHAREST 0817 (C)

SUMMARY: ROMANIAN DEMARCHE ON QUESTION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR
INTERNAL TRANSPORT COSTS THEIR FINE ARTS EXHIBIT IN US
PROBABLY REFLECTS TRADITIONAL RELUCTANCE EXPEND HARD CURRENCY
FOR CULTURAL ACTIVITY. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE POSSIBILITY OF GENUINE
CONCERN OVER WIDESPREAD POPULARITY US EXHIBITS IN ROMANIA
IN CONTRAST NARROWER APPEAL ROMANIAN EXHIBITS IN US, BUT WE
ARE LOATH TO DEBATE THIS. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD PURSUE TALKS
WITH ROMANIANS FOCUSING PRINCIPALLY ON HARD CURRENCY COSTS
BALANCE, EMPHASIZING THAT EXHIBIT EXCHANGE ON BALANCE IS A
DOLLAR EARNER FOR ROMANIA. WE SHOULD TREAT SUGGESTION OF
ROMANIAN CONCERN ABOUT ONE- SIDEDNESS OF EXCHANGE AS NON- ISSUE
AND REFLECT CONFIDENCE THAT FINANCIAL DETAIL WHICH THIS
QUESTION REPRESENTS WILL BE QUICKLY SETTLED.

1. ROMANIAN EMBASSY RAISED ISSUE HERE ON FEBRUARY 22 AND AGAIN
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ON FEBRUARY 28. THEY WERE TOLD PROBLEM OF FINANCING INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION OF EXHIBIT BEYOND COMPETENCE OF THAT MEETING, BUT WERE GIVEN CLEAR INDICATION THAT USG UNLIKELY ACCEPT THIS BURDEN.

2. ILEASAS' ARGUMENT (ALSO MADE BY MITRAN) THAT USG SHOULD PAY INTERNAL SHIPMENT IN VIEW OF GOR " INTERPRETATION" OF IMPLEMENTING CONDITIONS FOR 1973-74 EXCHANGES AGREEMENT IS SPECIOUS AND BASED ON MISREADING OF AGREEMENT. THE REFERENCE TO PAYMENT BY RECEIVING SIDE OF CURATOR TRAVEL COST AND PER DIEM (1972-72 EXCHANGES OF NOTES, ANNEX, PARA 4 AND IMPLEMENTING CONDITIONS 1973-74 AGREEMENT, SECTION II, PARA A.) IS SEPARATED BY A SEMI- COLON FROM THE PRECEDING CLAUSES CONCERNING SITES, LIGHTING, INSTALLATION, ETC. FURTHERMORE, THE REFERENCE SPECIFYING INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING COSTS (WITHOUT REFERENCE TO INTERNAL SHIPPING COSTS) TO BE PAID BY SENDING SIDE IS AN ENTIRELY SEPARATE SUBPARAGRAPH. MOREOVER, WHILE THERE IS NO SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION COSTS, THERE IS EXTENSIVE AND CLEAR PRECEDENCE IN RECORD. WE HAVE ALWAYS PAID INTERNAL TRANSPORT COSTS IN ROMANIA (MOST RECENTLY IN FORM OF DOLS 11,484 PAYMENT FOR INTERNAL SHIPMENT OF EDUTECH AND GOR HAS PAID INTERNAL TRANSPORT FOR ITS ONLY PREVIOUS EXHIBIT IN US (I. E., DOLS 3,500 FOR TUCULESCU EXHIBIT IN 1968).

3. IN WHAT MAY HAVE REVEALED REAL NATURE OF ROMANIAN PROBLEM, MITRAN IN FEB 28 MEETING ASKED USG PAY INTERNAL TRANSPORT COSTS SIMPLY BECAUSE GOR FAILED TO MAKE APPROPRIATE ALLOCATIONS BASED ON GOR MIN FIN INTERPRETATION OF IMPLEMENTING CONDITIONS 1973-74 AGREEMENT.

4. MITRAN, INCIDENTALLY, WAS QUITE EXPLICIT ON FEB 28 IN DISCUSSING THE THREAT TO OUR FUTURE EXHIBIT ACTIVITY IN ROMANIA, IF ROMANIAN FINE ARTS WERE TO BE CANCELLED. THIS SAME THREAT WAS USED BY HIM FREELY IN THE GENERAL CONTEXT OF EXHIBIT ACTIVITY DURING FORMAL AND INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS FOR 1973-74 AGREEMENT LAST DECEMBER AND IS TYPICAL
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